

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5784



Introduced by Honorable Edwin L. Olivarez

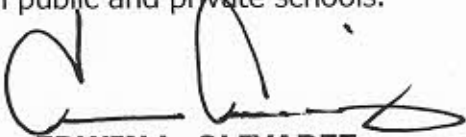
EXPLANATORY NOTE

Fundamental in our Constitution is the State's policy of inculcating patriotism and nationalism among Filipino youth through education. Thus, Article XIV Section 3 (2), provides:

2) They shall inculcate patriotism and nationalism, foster love of humanity, respect for human rights, appreciation of the role of national heroes in the historical development of the country, teach the rights and duties of citizenship, strengthen ethical and spiritual values, develop moral character and personal discipline, encourage critical and creative thinking, broaden scientific and technological knowledge, and promote vocational efficiency.

Currently, the High School curriculum focuses on the appreciation of our national heroes, their works, and their contribution to the country's historical development. To further strengthen patriotism and nationalism among Filipino youth, it is proposed that the High School curriculum, both in public and private schools, should likewise include Voters' Education that will teach High School students the rights and duties of citizenship. Voters' Education seeks to instruct High School students, who are about to be first-time voters, the importance of the right of suffrage, how the voters should evaluate and choose the candidates, and their consequent duty to maintain the sanctity of the ballots and the electoral process.

By the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly prayed for, including Voters' Education as part of the High School curriculum in both public and private schools.


EDWIN L. OLIVAREZ

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AN ACT MAKING VOTERS' EDUCATION MANDATORY IN THE HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULUM IN BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

Section 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the "Voters' Education Act of 2012".

Section 2. Declaration of Policy – The State recognizes the vital role of the Filipino youth in nation building and encourages their involvement in public and civic affairs. The State likewise recognizes the role of educational institutions in inculcating among the Filipino youth patriotism and nationalism, and in teaching the Filipino youth the rights and duties of citizenship in support of the latter's role in nation building. Moreover, the State recognizes the need to educate High School students, who are about to become first-time voters, in becoming responsible members of the electorate through curriculum-based Voters' Education.

Section 3. Mandatory Voters' Education. – Voters' Education shall be taught by adequately trained teachers in formal and non-formal educational system in Fourth Year High School through lectures, demonstration, and other approaches. The Voters' Education shall commence at the start of the school year immediately following one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act to allow the training of concerned teachers. The Department of Education (DepEd), the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) and the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) shall formulate the Voters' Education curriculum. Such curriculum shall be common to both public and private schools, out of school youth, and enrollees in the Alternative Learning System (ALS) shall be integrated in all relevant subjects and shall include, but not limited to, the following topics:

- (a) Values Formation;
- (b) Importance of the Right to Suffrage and the Sanctity of the Ballot;
- (c) Factors in Evaluating and Choosing Candidates;
- (d) Electoral Process in the Philippines;
 - (i) Procedure in voters' registration
 - (ii) Prohibited acts during election period
 - (iii) Procedure in filling out and casting of ballots
 - (iv) Procedure for automated elections

Section 4. Appropriations. – The sums necessary for the implementation of this Act, including but not limited to the development of the Voters' Education Curriculum, training and deployment of teachers, transportation of PICOS machines shall be appropriated shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

Section 4. Implementing Rules. – The Secretary of Education shall issue the necessary rules and regulations to carry into effect the purpose of this Act.

Section 5. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette or Newspaper of General Circulations.

Approved,